

retirement, is predicted to result in a shortage of more than 14 million college-educated workers by the year 2020. This is the deficit that should garner our national attention and we should work together on. We can only address this through our continued focus on education, training, employment, and social services, which make up a total of 2 percent of our Federal budget.

To build sustainable economic growth, we must continue our investment in employment and training programs, which have experienced an increase in demand of support for displaced and unemployed workers. We must continue our investment in higher education by maintaining Pell Grant funding, as well as support for programs such as TRIO, which sends the largest amount of low-income students to and through college, which helps the economic prowess of this country. We must continue our investment in title I programs, which are intended to supplement local resources of underserved schools, which bring our economy down.

We must continue our investment in School Improvement Grants, which provide important resources for States to turn around their lowest-performing schools and significantly reduce the high school dropout rate, which causes our country a great deal of deficit.

We must continue our investment in programs that address the 17,000 word gap between low-income 6-year-olds and their more advantaged peers. We must support programs such as Head Start that work to dismantle the cradle-to-prison pipeline and replace it with a cradle-to-career pipeline by providing early childhood education to low-income children. These supports, in tandem, produce a higher number of taxpaying citizens and add growth to our economy. Yet, my colleagues continually try to attack these efforts by cutting these programs.

Further, my colleagues—who made a “pledge to America” to develop a plan to create jobs, end economic uncertainty, and make America more competitive—continuously introduce and support measures to undermine this pledge and devastate our economic growth as a Nation.

In March, unemployment fell to 8.8 percent, a 2-year low. Payrolls grew to 216,000 for the month, following 194,000 in February. Private hiring rose by 230,000 people in March, following a 240,000 growth in February. Manufacturing expanded to a 7-year high in March. Incomes and consumer spending increased in February, helping to expand the economy. Yet, ignoring economic facts, the experts, the political reality, and the best interests of the American people, the Republicans continue to embrace an ideological spending plan that would destroy 700,000 jobs and derail the economic recovery just as it is beginning to gain momentum.

The current Republican spending plan would: Give away tax breaks to companies that shift jobs overseas;

give away tens of billions of dollars in tax subsidies to Big Oil companies; and make tax cuts for the wealthy permanent, which adds \$1 trillion to the deficit.

This plan would kick almost 1 million college students out of the Pell Grant program.

218,000 low income children and families would be removed from the Head Start program.

170,000 families trying to find or retain employment would lose childcare.

2,400 schools serving nearly a million low-income students would lose funding.

Job training programs for those out of work or attaining new skills would be dramatically cut.

Guaranteed coverage for seniors under Medicare would be eliminated.

Cuts will be made to Medicaid for seniors in nursing homes, health care for children and Americans with disabilities.

This spending plan that my colleagues have proposed only highlights the misplaced priorities.

The Republican budget is the wrong choice for the American people: it is unfair; it doesn't create jobs; and it doesn't grow the economy.

This proposal attempts to cut the deficit on the backs of working families, seniors, children, and our middle class. But I contend: We cannot build this country's economy on the backs of the vulnerable.

The public wants Democrats and Republicans to negotiate and compromise. My Democratic colleagues and I are willing to make responsible budget cuts that don't cost jobs, don't hurt the economy and that reduce the deficit responsibly.

Yet, our Republican colleagues continue to waste precious time with draconian spending proposals filled with divisive “policy riders” that are unacceptable to the American people.

This is irresponsible. Working families deserve more. Our children deserve more. Our future as a Nation deserves more.

LONE SURVIVOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, this past week, I had the opportunity to read a book called “Lone Survivor,” a tale about four Navy SEALs that were inserted into Afghanistan territory, Lieutenant Mike Murphy, Petty Officer Matthew Axelson, Petty Officer Danny Dietz, and Marcus Luttrell. Marcus Luttrell, the lone survivor, writes the book and says, “If they built a mountain as high as the Empire State Building for Lieutenant Murphy, it would not be high enough.”

These four young men—physical specimens, men of valor, men of courage—were inserted into the dark on top of an Afghanistan mountain. Shortly after arrival, daylight hit. Three goat herders came upon them. They easily subdued them. Then the choice was to kill—if they represented a clear and present danger—or to let them go. One voted to abstain. There was a tie vote between the other two. Finally, Marcus Luttrell voted to let them go. He knew

what the consequences would be. Twenty minutes later, the Taliban that they were after, over 100 came rushing over the top of the mountain firing their AK-47s and RPGs.

The four young SEALs moved to the back of the precipice. They were forced back by the fire and finally jumped off the edge of the mountain, 200 to 300 yards, the equivalent of three football fields straight down.

Lieutenant Mike Murphy had already been shot through the stomach. They were facing odds of 35 to 1, at least. They were worried about being tried for murder in this country because of their actions. They fell back off the mountain doing back flips headlong. Enemies swarmed after them. They were pushing through trees, grabbing limbs, trying to stop. Danny Dietz is shot. No SEAL is ever left behind. Mikey, bleeding out of his stomach, and Marcus move into the open and drag Danny back to cover. The enemy keeps closing in.

They are forced back a second time to another precipice and jump off a sheer cliff, the equivalent of four stories, straight down. Danny was shot again in the lower back. It blew out his stomach. He was still firing. Grenades are now pouring in on them. The Taliban reinforcements are coming closer, yards away, 20, 30 away. Danny is shot again. This time he slumps over, drops his rifle. He props himself up miraculously and continues to fire.

They have fallen over 900 feet down the mountain now. They fall back to the edge again and go over the edge. The SEALs had taken a heavy toll. Eighty Taliban are rushing after them, firing. Danny is shot again, this time in the neck. He slumps over. No SEAL is left behind. Marcus Luttrell steps out into the hail of gunfire to rescue him, props him up, and starts pulling him back by the pack. Danny is still firing his weapon.

Again they have to go over the edge. This time, Lieutenant Murphy understands they've got one choice. He casually walks out with his severe wounds into the opening to where he can get his cell phone open and get a call for help. He sits there with thousands of rounds of AK-47 rounds hitting near him. He makes a call and says, sir, taking heavy fire. Need help.

A round hits him in the back, blood spurts out his chest. Marcus Luttrell listens to him saying, “Yes, sir.” He drops his rifle, he picks up his cell phone from the ground and says, “Yes, sir, I'll tell the men, sir.”

Mortally wounded, he sits there, rounds continuing to come in. Lieutenant Mike Murphy falls on the ground and says, “Marcus, help me. Marcus, help me.” Axelson, the third soldier to die that day, is dying on the other side. Miraculously, Marcus Luttrell survives.

We made this, yesterday, a discussion that was academic about supporting our troops. We have friends on the other side of the aisle saying it's a

trick. We have the President saying he would veto it immediately. And for us to not give the pay to men and women like this who are putting their life in harm's way causes great shame on this Nation.

□ 1100

TWO AMERICAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, that was great rhetoric but not reality. Thank God when the Architect built this Capitol, he put a top on it that attracts lightning rods; otherwise, who knows what would happen in front of us.

The budget that was put up yesterday talked about defense, but it also had one other element in it. That was restricting the District of Columbia from using funds for low-income women to get family planning or abortions.

If you really wanted to take care of the troops, you would fund a spending proposal that took care of the troops and you wouldn't add a rider to it that you know that no human being who cared about women's choice would vote for. You eliminate a great percentage of your possible supporters. If the troops are number one and number one only, you don't put something on with DC abortion rights on it because that eliminates part of your constituency.

Now, one of the previous speakers talked about this too, the one that was back into Led Zeppelin. I haven't figured that one out yet. But it was something about Planned Parenthood. Why is Planned Parenthood an issue? Because the Republican majority made it an issue. They put in their budget that there will be no funding for Planned Parenthood, a specific organization. Not any organization that does family planning, not any organization that might provide abortions, but Planned Parenthood. And that is a sticking point in the negotiations.

It is wrong to single out a single organization that helps women with their family planning and that does give low-income women opportunities to get tests for HIV/AIDS and for breast cancer and for all other types of women's health issues. The Republicans have made that an issue, and they made it such an issue that they wouldn't have a clean CR proposal yesterday.

Mr. HOYER offered a proposal. He said, Let's just continue the budget for a week at its current spending plans. No cuts, true. They could come later. That was resoundingly rejected because they wanted to go forward with their extreme social policy, and that's what matters to them. They can hide behind what they want.

The fact is there are two America's today. I read about it when I was a young person. Michael Harrington wrote a book decades ago called "The Other America." It was about an Amer-

ica that didn't get the support that it needed—Appalachia, poor people, regular folks that didn't get what they needed and didn't have the opportunity that this country should give everybody. The two Americas are the upper 1 percent that aren't going to be paying more taxes and the other 99 percent that do.

One gentleman said the Democrats want everybody to pay more taxes. No, not everybody; just the millionaires. And they wouldn't go along with that, because the millionaires are the party that control the Republicans. That's what they're about. They won't fund—put a tax proposal on that will tax millionaires because they want the middle class to pay more. Their budget blueprint that's going to come out lowers the overall rate to 25 percent—even more for millionaires.

And the billionaires, they're not watching today, Mr. Speaker, because they've got their lobbyists working for them. They came here in December and they took the estate tax from a million dollar exemption to a \$5 million exemption. And they took the rate that really mattered to them from 55 to 35 percent so they can pass that wealth on and continue the differences in America.

Two Americas: The upper 1 percent that the majority party represents, and the other 99 percent that we represent.

Mr. Speaker, let's get abortion out of the debate. Let's protect our troops. Let's keep this government moving.

OUR NATION'S DEBT CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DESJARLAIS) for 3 minutes.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I find it shameful that Washington has run up trillion dollar deficits for the last 3 years and yet there are those that seek to portray Republicans' modest, commonsense spending cuts as extreme. It is time for government to tighten its belts and balance its budgets just like families do every day across Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District.

I refuse to allow our Nation to continue borrowing money from China for reckless government spending and then send the bill to our children and grandchildren.

Americans deserve the truth. The choices that we make now on spending are not easy, but they are necessary. We cannot continue to spend money that we do not have. My constituents did not send me to Washington to ignore problems nor offer excuses. They did send me here to solve the problems and not kick the can down the road further.

Our Nation is not in debt because Americans are taxed too little. We are in debt because government spends too much. We must address our Nation's debt crisis and spending addiction, and we must do it now.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) for 3 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to stand up for the middle class, the working poor, and the poor of this great Nation. They deserve honesty and a fair shake from their government.

I'm here to tell the American people the honest truth that the Republican budget of fiscal year 2011 would destroy 700,000 jobs and derail our economic recovery. Their plan, H.R. 1, would cut funding for government programs with the precision of a chain saw.

The Republicans are ignoring the fact that the policies of the 111th Congress and of our President saved America from an economic free fall. These same policies have been responsible for the unemployment rate falling to 8.8 percent last month, a 2-year low. I think last month was the 14th straight month of jobs being created as opposed to jobs being cut.

Instead of funding programs that are helping our economy, these Republicans are poised to shut down the government. Today, every Republican in unison speaks about this shutdown in hushed and somber tones so as not to appear to be gloating. But they really don't care about you, the middle class, and they don't care about how a shutdown will affect you. And they all, in unison, cast blame on HARRY REID. He's going to be the whipping boy that we hear on FOX News tonight.

Mr. Speaker, a recent study found that more than 40 percent of House freshmen are millionaires. They have net worths of up to \$40 million. And some of these freshmen, who have yet to become millionaires—they're wannabes—but they enjoy a median estimated wealth for these House freshman of \$570,000 each. In contrast, according to the U.S. census, the median estimated wealth for the average American is \$120,000. It's a big contrast.

Instead of funding problems that are helping our economy, they're poised to shut down the government. Today, for minorities, the median estimated wealth is \$27,000. And what the Republicans are doing is trying to get us out of this budget turmoil that we're in on the backs of the middle class and the poor. It's wrong.

□ 1110

POLITICS AS USUAL IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 3 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity today to send a message that this Congress is serious about cutting spending, creating jobs and keeping the government operating. We can and we must do all three. It is